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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Weekending September 9, 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Onions: September and October are the late onion crop harvest months. Present indications point to a 9,565,000 sack crop from eight western states, a 46 percent increase over 1943.

The average daily carlot movement of onions from the eight states has been 81 cars during the last week. During the previous week the average daily movement was 63 cars.

Reports from some eastern and middle-western states indicate there may be a reduction in the late onion crop in those states as the result of both dry weather and thrips damage.

Prevailing onion prices this week and last on Pacific Coast wholesale markets.

Variety	San Francisco	Los Angeles	Portland	Seattle
50 lbs.	this wk	- last wk	this wk	- last wk
Globes				
white	\$2.50 - \$2.75	\$2.00 - \$2.00	\$2.50 - \$2.59	-- - --
yellow	2.25 - 1.75	-- - --	1.85 - 2.00	-- - --
red	1.65 - 1.25	-- - --	-- - --	-- - --
Red Flat	1.25 - 1.25	1.15 - 1.15	-- - --	-- - --
Torpedo	1.00 - 1.50	1.50 - 1.50	-- - --	-- - --
White				
Spanish	-- - --	1.75 - 2.00	-- - --	\$2.25 - \$2.50
Yellow				
Spanish	-- - --	1.15 - 1.15	-- - --	1.75 - 2.00

Tomatoes:

Harvest of canning tomatoes is now under way, notably in California where there is an estimated 130,000 acres intended for processing. The California acreage for 1943 was 112,000 acres, 86 percent of the 1944 crop. Colorado and Utah are adding 5,900 and 8,100 acres each, making a total of 144,000 for the western states out of the U.S. total of 605,650 acres.

Tomatoes for both home canning and fresh consumption are now in plentiful supply on all Western Region markets at prices ranging from \$1.00 per lug of loose pack stock to \$3.00 for packed and wrapped stock. Ordinary stock was mostly quoted at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per lug, while overripes ranged from 50 cents down to 25 cents per lug.

Sweet Corn:

The four Western wholesale markets reports plentiful supplies of sweet corn at prices averaging mostly around 35 cents per dozen. Some were reported as high as 55 cents and some as low as 24 cents per dozen.

(Over)

In San Francisco and Oakland the trucked-in movement of corn has averaged 2500 to 3000 packages daily, and in Los Angeles around 10,000 packages daily, a 30 to 40 percent heavier movement than last year on that market.

Potatoes: A recent light frost in the Klamath area was instrumental in slightly advancing the harvest period in that section. The frost "burned" potato tops and checked growth sufficiently to hasten ripening of potatoes so that they might be dug earlier than previously planned.

Carlot movement of potatoes from the western states has averaged approximately 300 cars daily during the past week. Total U.S. movement has been slightly over 600 cars daily.

U.S. No. 1 long Whites of San Joaquin, Tehachapi and Washington origin closed the week on the Western markets at \$3.65, \$3.70 and \$3.50 per cwt. respectively.

Sweet Potatoes: The first sweet potatoes from California this season were reported on the Portland wholesale market August 28 and sold at 8 - 3/4 and 9 cents per pound. They sold there at the close of this week at 9.2 cents per pound. On the San Francisco and Los Angeles markets they sold at 6 to 8 cents per pound.

Apples: Although the apple crop for 1944 is estimated at 125,643,000 bushels, 142 percent of the 1943 crop, only 2128 cars of apples have moved interstate to date this season. This amount is less than half of the carlot movement last year to the same date. During the past week California shippers have moved but 33 cars, bringing the total this season up to 872 cars; about 75 percent of the number for the same period last year, reflecting in part California's short crop which is about 71 percent of the 1943 crop.

Gravenstein apples sold at the close of the week on a range of from \$2.25 to \$3.50 per box on the western markets and were in light to moderate supply.

Pears: Total movement of pears this season is about 85 percent of the movement in 1943 for the same period and they are now going to wholesale and processing points at a daily average of 183 cars.

Prices on the wholesale markets closed the week at 7 to 9 cents per pound for packed Bartletts.

Peaches: Processors, to date this season, have taken 870 cars of California peaches, equal to the number taken by them for the same period last year. Colorado is the heaviest peach shipping state at present, moving an average of 209 cars daily.

Wholesale prices ranged from \$1.00 to \$2.35 per lug for both "clings" and "frees", with "frees" going mostly around \$1.75 to \$2.00 for good stock, while "clings" sold mostly at \$1.15 to \$1.50 per lug.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:

Butter: The butter market continues to reflect lesser amounts for both government and civilian demands with demand being very much in excess of supplies. Some wholesale establishments and other dealers have limited deliveries to retailers. Retailers in turn have limited civilian sales to as little as $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per customer. This is more pronounced in the East than in the West.

In the Middle West and the Rocky Mountain areas, pasture conditions were slightly improved during the first week of the month and the decline in butterfat production was temporarily halted. Farther East and in the West conditions are not materially changed, although production was lower the past week than the preceding week and the same period a year ago.

Eggs: Wholesale prices on Grade "A" Large eggs advanced as much as 3 cents during the week. There was also a slight upward trend in the price of Mediums, but no material change in Smalls. Top prices for Grade "A" Large closed the week as follows: Los Angeles, 51 cents; San Francisco, $48\frac{1}{2}$; Portland, $43\frac{1}{2}$; Seattle, 45 cents.

Seasonal declines in egg production have continued. Receipts in the western markets for the past week show a drop of approximately 24 percent under those of the same week last year and about 62 percent from those of the previous week.

Poultry: Leghorn hens and other fowl were in heavy supply on all of the western markets during the week. Receipts appeared to be particularly heavy in the Northwest, with some of the stock moving into California markets. Supplies of broilers and fryers were under demand on all the markets. Fob paying prices in the south were up slightly, as much as 1 cent on young stock.

GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Rice: Southern rice has been somewhat improved by rains, but harvesting was delayed. The California crop has made good progress and good yields are expected.

Wheat: Spring wheat harvest and threshing was again delayed by cool, wet weather in much of the belt, but most of the harvest is well advanced and about completed in the majority of the states.

Seeding of winter wheat for the 1945 crop is well under way in the west central portions of the western plains area and well into the Great Lakes area.

Western wheat markets indicated a weaker condition than a week ago, and there was reported a general tendency on the part of growers toward holding for a stronger market. No. 1 Soft White was quoted in Los Angeles and San Francisco at \$2.65 per cwt., and in Portland at \$2.40 per cwt., bulk basis.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: Receipts of cattle on the Western markets were heavier this past week than for the previous week. Prices increased up to 50 cents per cwt. in the South but in the Northwest there was a general drop of 25 to 50 cents. Most of the offerings on good grass fat stock moved at \$9.00 to \$12.50 in the Northwest, and up to \$14.00 in the Southwest. Receipts of cattle on the twelve markets were up 12 percent this past week over those for the previous week.

Calves: Receipts of calves in the twelve markets show a 62 percent increase this past week, above the receipts for the same period last year and 8 percent above the week previous. In the west calf receipts are slightly up, with prices advanced as much as \$1.00 on the Los Angeles market, closing the week up to \$14.25.

